

September 28, 2010

SUBJECT:

Los Angeles County **Board of Supervisors** 

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TO:

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STATUS REPORT ON KEY INDICATORS OF PROGRESS, HOSPITAL OPERATIONS, AND OTHER ISSUES RELATED TO THE TRANSITION TO THE NEW LAC+USC MEDICAL CENTER - PROGRESS REPORT #42 (Agenda Item #S-2,

**September 28, 2010)** 

This is to provide your Board with the bi-monthly report on the status of transitioning to the new LAC+USC Medical Center (LAC+USC). This report is the combination of the interim report of Emergency Department (ED) and hospital admission volumes and specialty services as well as the full monthly operational report with trends to include the month of August 2010.

**Census Trending** (ADC includes Psychiatric & Newborn Patients)

The Average Daily Census (ADC) for the month of August was 604 out of 671 licensed beds, an estimated 89% utilization rate (91% occupancy). The census for Medical/Surgical units was an estimated 98% utilization rate (100% occupancy) for August 2010.

#### **Emergency Department (ED) Indicators and Specialty Services**

Attachment #1 demonstrates the trending of ED registration as well as admissions to both the ED and the hospital. Admissions have decreased about 4% compared to July 2010.

Attachment #2 shows the ADC trends for specialty care areas of OB/GYN, Pediatrics, ICU, Psychiatry, Jail and Burn Units with no significant changes.

Attachment #3 is the Operational Monitoring Report for the month of August, 2010. While the Left Without Being Seen (LWBS) indicator demonstrated a significant decline from 13% in July to slightly over 8% in August, there were increases in ED Boarding Time, ED Wait Time, Crowding Levels, and Average Length of Inpatient Stay. As previously reported, increased patient acuity has contributed to these increases. Furthermore, in direct correlation with these increases, there was a 16% increase in number of Patients Transferred Out to both Rancho and private hospitals.

#### **Factors Contributing to Changes in Indicators**

As reported on September 3, 2010, LAC+USC have implemented a new series of measures to reduce the time before patients receive a Medical Screening Exam (MSE) and the time between reassessments after triage. Each Supervisor September 28, 2010 Page 2

These measures were taken in response to findings in a recent Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services survey and include moving medical providers and support staff from patient treatment areas to the triage area. By performing the MSE in the triage area, the patient obtains an initial screening examination by a physician or nurse practitioner earlier in the ED course. They determine if an emergency medical condition exists, initiate pain medications when appropriate, and order radiology and laboratory studies that can be completed prior to being placed in a treatment bay in the ED where a final diagnosis is made and treatments are administered. Furthermore, the providers performing the MSE in the triage area can make quick diagnoses and discharge decisions for patients with very low acuity.

This MSE and triage restructuring was implemented on August 9 and the facility is already seeing positive results. For example, the turnaround time from triage to MSE went from a median of 238 minutes in early August to a median of 75 minutes by late August and, as previously indicated, the LWBS reduced by 5%. The significant improvement in the LWBS indicator means that more patients are receiving the MSE earlier and are not leaving prior to an initial examination. However, the results of these robust gains in the MSE and reduced LWBS are now affecting the treatment areas of the ED where more patients are being seen with fewer providers. As such, some patients are remaining longer before being discharged, admitted or transferred. These patients represent a significant variable in the formula used to calculate the ED Crowding Level Comparison and, as a result, this indicator rose sharply in August.

### **Actions to Mitigate ED Trends**

LAC+USC executive management has put into place various mitigation activities since the move to the Replacement Facility in November 2008, in order to address trends in various indicators. A full listing of these measures can be found in Attachment #4.

The next effort is to reduce the backlog in the ED treatment areas which has increased because there are fewer providers in the treatment areas and more patients are being seen as described above. This will be accomplished by backfilling the providers that have been moved to the MSE area. In addition, LAC+USC intends to convert one ED pod to a non-teaching area which will be manned only by attending staff and will result in quicker work-ups for Level Three (intermediate acuity) patients. These efforts are being temporarily resolved with registry staff and overtime as well as through part-time specialty medical services agreements with physicians and nurse practitioners. The Department is working closely with the Chief Executive Office to execute a plan, proposed by the hospital executive team, to hire permanent physician, nursing, ancillary and support staff to meet the needs of the ED treatment areas.

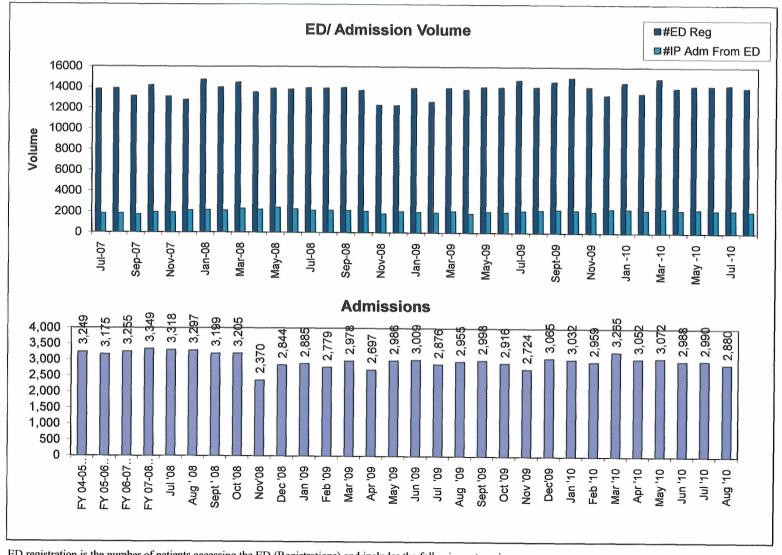
To reduce the ED Boarding Time, several additional measures are being initiated. Several areas outside the ED are being considered for conversion into observation and overflow for boarded patients waiting for an inpatient beds which will require additional State California Department of Public Health approval. This will result in a total of 20 additional beds to relieve ED Boarding Time; eleven observation and nine overflow beds. The Department is also in final negotiations with an additional hospital that has more specialty services for transfers of County-responsible patients.

If you have any questions or need additional information please contact me or Carol Meyer, Chief Network Officer at (213) 240-8370.

JFS:CM:pm 811:003

Attachments

## LAC+USC Medical Center **Workload Summary**



ED registration is the number of patients accessing the ED (Registrations) and includes the following categories:

<sup>\*</sup> Left without being seen

<sup>\*</sup> Transferred to the UADC on the same day

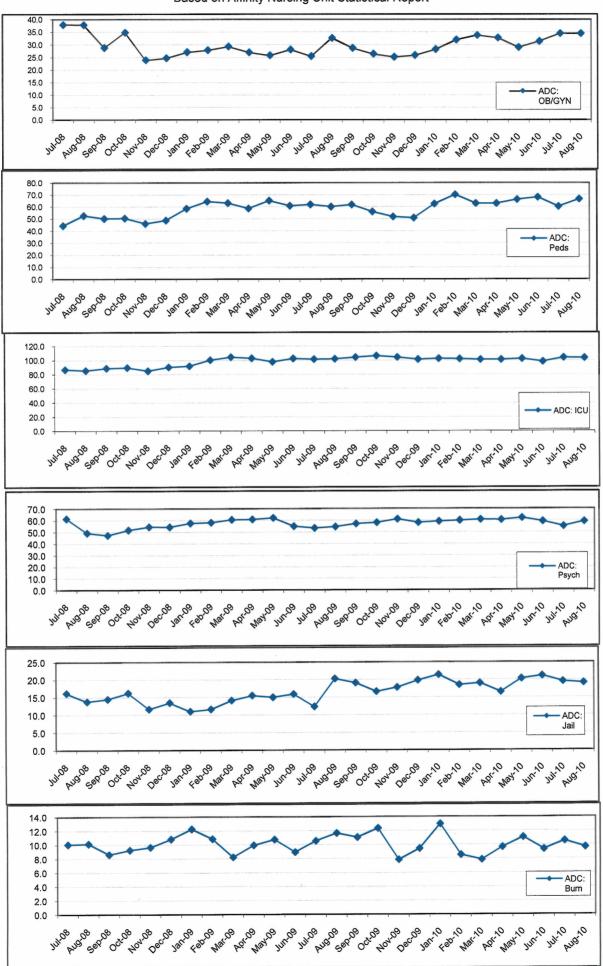
<sup>\*</sup> Admitted as an inpatient

<sup>\*</sup> Dispositioned from the ED

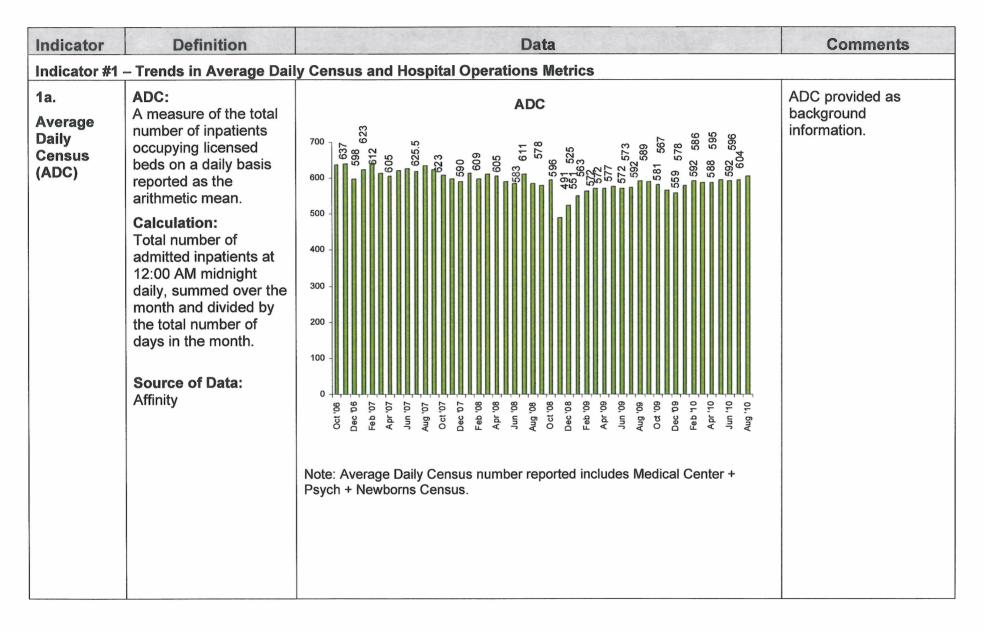
<sup>\*</sup> Women's Walk-in

### **LAC+USC Healthcare Network**

Average Daily Census by Nursing Unit Subset, July 2008 to Aug 2010
Based on Affinity Nursing Unit Statistical Report

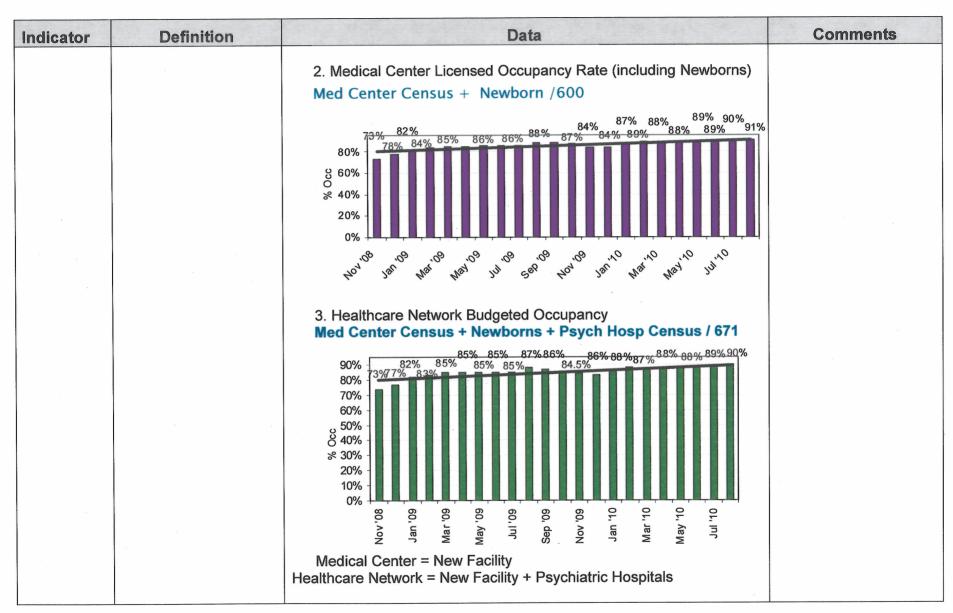


Operational Monitoring Report Reporting Period – Aug 2010



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Indicator	Definition		Data		Comments
Indicator #1 – Trend  1b.  Occupancy Rate LAC+USC Medical Center  Definit A mea usage beds of reporti derived patient reporti license the reportion licens	Is in Average Daily Ce tion: Issure of the of the licensed during the ing period that is d by dividing the t days in the ing period by the ed bed days in corting period.  Iation: Ital number of ed inpatients at AM midnight, ing women in may include al newborns and iatric inpatients d by licensed or eted beds.  Is in Average Daily Ce Ital number of eted beds or eted beds.  Is in Average Daily Ce Ital number of eted beds or eted beds.	nsus and Hospital Opera  1. Medical Center Licens Newborns) = Med Cer  80%  77%  80%  80%  90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 90 9	ed Occupancy Rate atter Census - New	borns / 600	For comparison, occupancy rates reported in the old

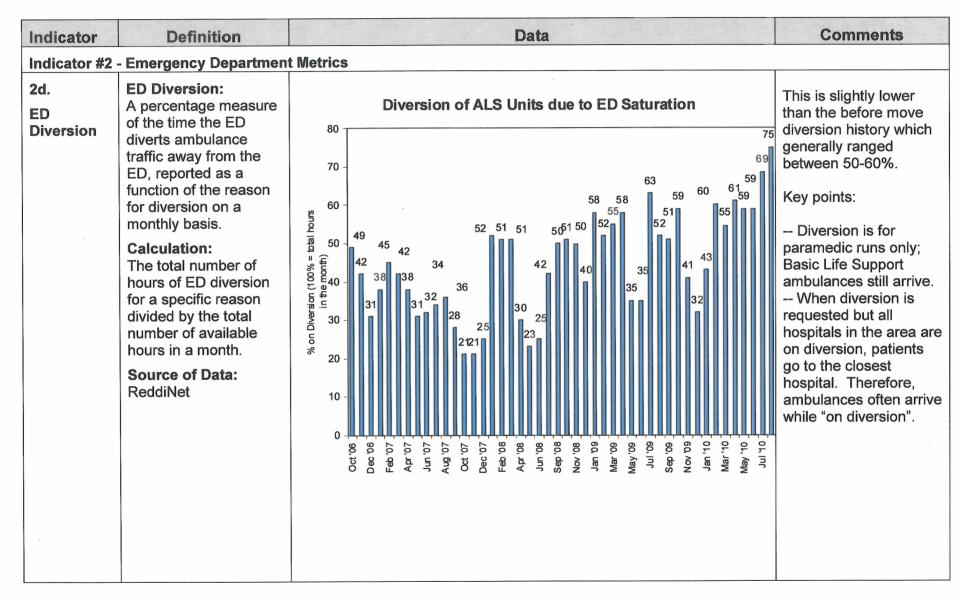


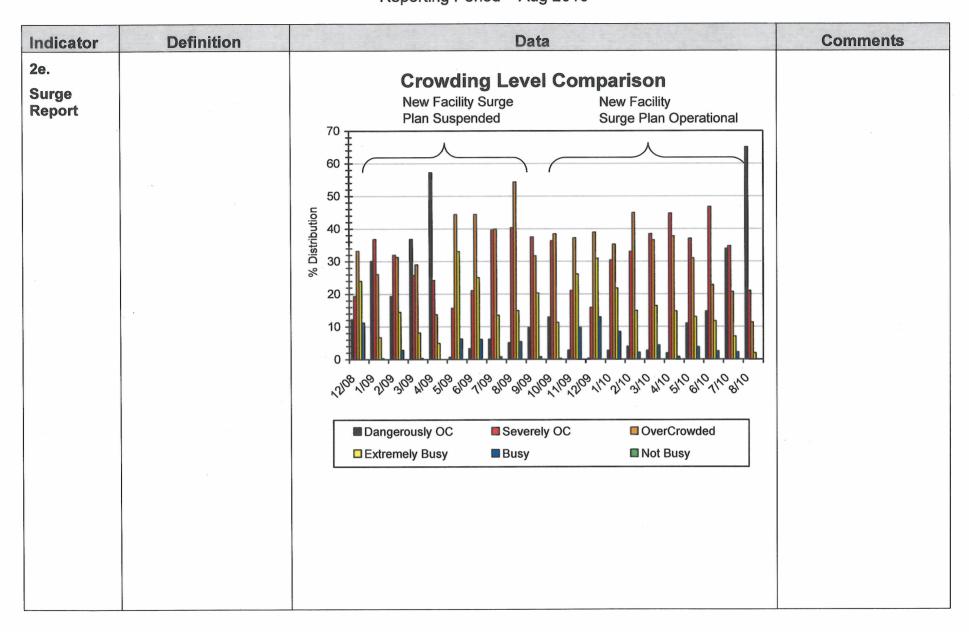
Indicator	Definition	Data	Comments
Indicator #2	- Emergency Departmen	t Metrics	
2a.  Median Emergency Department Boarding Time (EDBT)	Boarding Time: Time from MD Admit time (effective date and time of pre-admit) to time the patient actually leaves the ED en route to assigned bed (effective date and time of the ED disposition).	12:00 10:48 - 9:36 - 8:24 - 7:43	
*Harris Rodde Indicator	Calculation: The middle value in the set of individual boarding times for the month arranged in increasing order. If there is an even number of values, then the median is the average of the middle two values.	7:12 6:06 6:06 6:06 6:06 6:06 6:06 6:06 6:0	
	Source of Data: Affinity Target: Less than 7 hours.	Adult Peds Total  Aug '10 data is Preliminary data	

Indicator Definition	Data	Comments
	Median Boarding Time (Adult)*    12:00	Comments

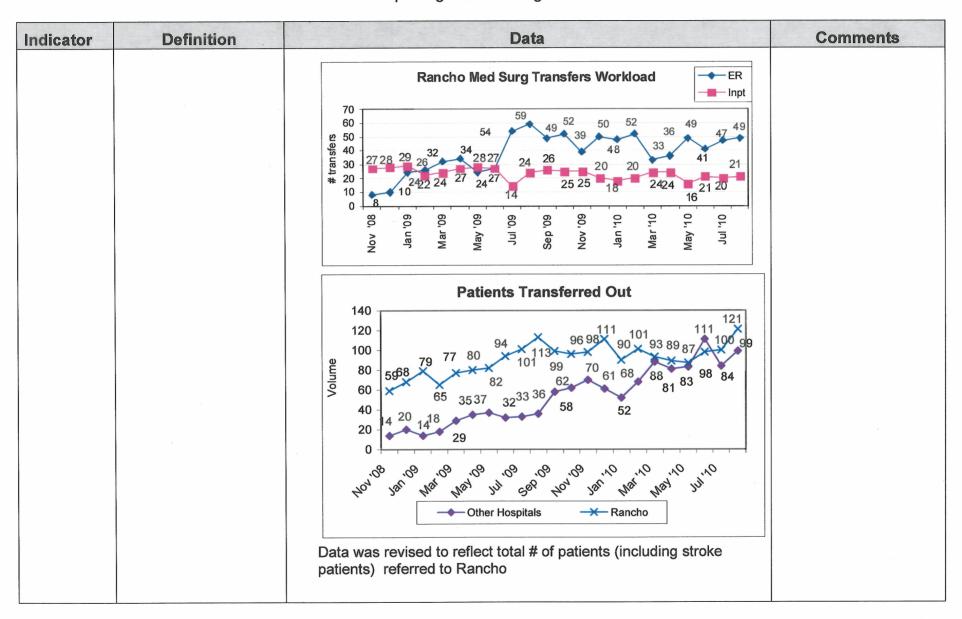
Indicator	Definition	Data	Comments
Indicator #2	- Emergency Departmen	t Metrics	
2b. ED Wait Time	ED Wait Time: Measured from time patient is triaged to time patient is either admitted or discharged reported as an arithmetic mean.  Definition: Sum of all wait time values during the monthly reporting period divided by the total number of values.  Source of Data: Affinity  Target: No target value. Lower numbers are better.	Average ED Wait Time  14:24  12:20  13:00 12:38  12:29  11:07  10:36  10:41  9:39  9:49  9	

Indicator	Definition	Data	Comments
Indicator #2	- Emergency Departmen	t Metrics	
2c. Left Without Being Seen (LWBS)	LWBS: The total number of patients who left the ED without being seen by a physician reported as a percentage of all ED visits.	2500 2000 - Left Without Being Seen 20% 18% 16%	
*Harris Rodde Indicator	Calculation: The total number of patients who left the ED without being seen divided by the total number of ED patient visits on a monthly basis.  Source of Data: Affinity Target: No target value. Lower numbers are better.	1000	





Indicator	Definition		Data			Comments
Indicator #3	- Trends for Patient Dive	rsions and Transfers & #4	– Transfers	to Rancho Los	Amigos Metric	<b>S</b>
3. & 4. Rancho	Transfers: The volume of patients	Month of Aug '10 Referrals from ER:				
Los Amigos	transferred to RLAH for acute hospitalization		Med/Surg	Acute Stroke	Total	
Hospital (RLAH)	from the Emergency Department and from	# Met transfer criteria	50	NA	-	
Transfers	Inpatient Units.	# Referred to RLAH	49	45	94	
		# Transfers	49	45	94	
	Data Source: Manual record keeping.	# Denied	0	NA	-	a
	a.raa.raa.raa.ra	# Cancelled	1	NA	-	
	Cancelled category	# Patients refused*	0	NA	-	*
	includes patients whose condition changed leading to higher level of care or	Referrals from Inpatients	: Med/Surg	Acute Stroke	Total	
	discharge home.				- Total	
	. *	# Met transfer criteria	44	NA	-	
		# Referred to RLAH	26	6	32	
		# Transfers	21	6	27	
		# Denied	5	NA	_	
		# Cancelled	17*	NA	_	
		# Patients refused*	0	NA	-	,
		Other /Pending	1	NA	-	
		-				



Indicator	Definition	Data	Comments
Indicator #5	– Harris Rodde Indicator	S	
5. Average	LOS: The difference between discharge date and the admission date or 1 if	*Healthcare Network ALOS - Preliminary data pending Auditor-Controller validation  ALOS	Overall trend in ALOS for the 2-year period prior to the move reduced to a low range
Length of Stay (ALOS)	the 2 dates are the same.  Total LOS:	6.5 6.4 6.5 6.4 6.5 6.4 6.0 6.0 6.0 6.0 6.1 6.1 6.1 6.1 6.1 6.1 6.1	of 4.7 – 5.5 days in 2008. Immediately prior to the move, the ALOS increased as the lower
*Harris	Calculation: ALOS is the arithmetic mean calculated by dividing the Total LOS by the Total # of discharges in the	5.6 5.6 5.6 5.5 5.8 5.6 6.0 6.0 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.6 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.4 5.3 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.5 5.5	acuity patients were transferred to other facilities. This trend may continue depending on number of transfers.
Rodde Indicator	monthly reporting period, rounded off to one decimal place.	Oct '06 Dec '06 Apr '07 Aug '07 Aug '07 Aug '08 Aug '08 Aug '08 Jun '08 Jun '08 Jun '09 Jun '09 Jun '09 Jun '09 Jun '09 Jun '09 Jun '10 May '10 May '10 Jul '10	*As of July 2010 with the consolidation of Ingleside and Hawkins, all psychiatric services are now included.
	Source of Data: Affinity	—— Target ALOS ——— Actual ALOS	
	Target: <5.5 days		

Indicator	Definition			Data			Comments			
Indicator #6 – F	ediatric Metrics									
6. Pediatric Bed	Census: The total number	The total number	The total number	The total number	Date	NICU (40 Beds)	Peds Ward (25 Beds)	PICU (10 Beds)	Med/Surg Adolescent (20 Beds)	*
Census and	admitted pediatric inpatients at 12:00 AM	Nov-08	56%	54%	50%	33%				
Occupancy	midnight of a	Dec-08	52%	60%	60%	40%				
(%)	designated pediatric	Jan-09	52%	68%	70%	75%				
	ward.	Feb-09	50%	80%	80%	85%				
Pediatric ICU	Occupancy:	Mar-09	57%	72%	70%	80%				
(PICU)	The total number of	Apr-09	57%	60%	60%	75%				
Neonatal ICU	admitted pediatric	May-09	62%	72%	70%	80%				
(NICU)	inpatients divided by	Jun-09	60%	64%	60%	75%				
` ,	the total number of	Jul-09	57%	72%	60%	80%				
Pediatric Unit	licensed beds on that unit and reported as percentage.	Aug-09	55%	64%	60%	80%				
Adolescent		Sep-09	55%	68%	70%	80%				
Unit	por contago.	Oct-09	45%	60%	60%	80%				
		Nov-09	35%	64%	70%	70%				
	Source of Data: Affinity	Dec-09	40%	64%	70%	65%				
	Allility	Jan -10	60%	68%	70%	70%				
	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Feb -10	65%	84%	80%	80%				
		Mar -10	65%	68%	60%	75%				
		Apr-10	60%	64%	60%	80%				
		May -10	67.5%	68%	80%	80%				
		Jun -10	65%	64%	70%	80%				
		Jul -10	60%	68%	80%	85%				
	a a	Aug -10	62%	68%	60%	85%				

### **Prior LAC+USC Emergency Department Mitigation Activities**

LAC+USC executive management has put in place various mitigative activities since the move to the Replacement Facility in November 2008. These activities have included:

- 1. Assessment of ADC by hospital administration daily to ensure maximal inpatient bed utilization for Specialty Care Beds.
- Expansion of Urgent Access Diagnostic Center (UADC) hours and treatment rooms to decompress ED low acuity patients and assign mid-level providers to screen and refer patients to the UADC.
- 3. Increasing patient transfers to Rancho Los Amigos and to private hospitals to address patient surges.
- 4. Heightened patient flow activities including expediting discharges and rapid housekeeping bed turnover times.
- 5. Obtaining Program Flexibility from the California Department of Public Health to use 10 ICU beds as medical/surgical level beds to meet patient demand for ward beds.
- 6. Utilization of temporary overflow medical/surgical beds in the Diagnostic and Treatment Tower when there is an increased boarding time for patients.
- 7. Re-implementation of the ED Surge Plan to identify levels of ED Crowding and define various measures based on the degree of overcrowding.
- 8. Implementation of an ED Information System (WellSoft) to improve documentation, communication, tracking and data acquisition in processing patients in the ED.
- 9. Management "huddles" by clinical teams to reconcile all beds and utilization of ward worksheets to determine the status of each bed.
- 10. Continued regular meetings of the Patient Flow Committee to analyze patient data and review process improvements that include use of white boards in the patient room and increased rounding by Nurse Managers to identify potential patients for discharge.
- 11. Continued daily meetings of the Utilization Review Team to review criteria for inpatient admissions. Patients not meeting medical criteria for admission are assisted in arranging for appropriate diagnostic and clinic appointments.
- 12. Contracting with a private community hospital to transfer indigent patients when beds are unavailable at LAC+USC or Rancho.